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REMARKS

Claim 1 has been editorially revised to include the limitations of claims 2 and 5. Claims 3 and 6 have been editorially revised to now depend from claim 1. Claims 2 and 5 have been canceled. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6 and 7 remain pending in the application. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application, as amended, are requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §102

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Yamamoto (HP 09126264A). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1 has been editorially revised to include the limitations of claims 2 and 5. Claims 2 and 5 have been canceled. Claim 1 recites end portions facing said base part of said sealing member contact peripheries of said washers so as to seal in a fluid-tight manner therebetween. This feature, nowhere disclosed or suggested by Yamamoto, prevents leakage of operating oil through a clearance between the end portions of the sealing member (for example, a sealing member 76 shown in Fig. 14) and the washers (for example, sealing washers 77a and 77b shown in Fig. 14), since the end portions and the washers make contact with each other so as to create a seal in a fluid-tight manner therebetween. This feature allows the rotary damper of claim 1 to achieve a high damping force without leakage of the operating oil from the bearing supporting the shaft.

In contradistinction, the rotary damper disclosed by Yamamoto is provided with a vane seal 18 (paragraph 26 of Yamamoto). The vane seal 18 of Yamamoto does not disclose or suggest the claimed sealing features of claim 1.

For at least these reasons, claim 1 is patentable over Yamamoto. Claims 3, 4, 6 and 7 are also patentable over Yamamoto since they depend ultimately from claim 1 that is allowable.

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In view of the above, early issuance of a notice of allowance is solicited.
Allowance of claims 1, 3, 4, 6 and 7 at an early date is solicited. Any questions regarding
this communication can be directed to the undersigned attorney, Curtis B. Hamre, Reg.
No. 29,165 at (612) 455-3802.



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Respectfully submitted,

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By:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Curtis B. Hamre". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Curtis B. Hamre
Reg. No. 29,165
CBH/lad